

Message Text

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TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, US, CA
SUBJECT: TORONTO STAR COLUMNIST ON SECRETARY-DESIGNATE BLUMENTHAL

1. IN A DECEMBER 20 OPINION COLUMN DATED IN WASHINGTON, TORONTO
STAR COLUMNIST, BOGDAN KIPLING, REFERRING TO THE HARD-LINE
PERFORMANCE OF FORMER TREASURER SECRETARY CONNALLY, COMMENTED
ON PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL BLUMENTHAL,
"AN ECONOMIST, INDUSTRIALIST AND FORMER RANKING WASHINGTON OFFICIAL
WITH CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE OF CANADA."

2. KIPLING WROTE THAT THE BENDIX CORPORATION EXPANSION IN CANADA
RESULTED FROM THE DECISIONS OF BLUMENTHAL AS CORPORATION CHAIRMAN
AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND THAT CANADIAN DIPLOMATS CAME TO
KNOW BLUMENTHAL DURING KENNEDY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS OF THE MID-1960S.

3. QUOTING AN UNNAMED CANADIAN DIPLOMAT WHO DESCRIBED BLUMENTHAL AS
FOLLOWS: "HE IS SOPHISTICATED, INTERNATIONALLY-MINDED, COOL,
ARROGANT AND IMPATIENT WITH FOOLS," KIPLING CONCLUDED THAT WITH
THE MANY INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS WHICH WILL HAVE BEEN FACED,
"CANADIANS, AND OTHERS, SHOULD BE GLAD IT'S BLUMENTHAL,
NOT CONNALLY, WHO WILL BE INFLUENCING WASHINGTON'S DECISIONS."
DIGGINS

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